

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-02 INR-07 CIAE-00 /072 W

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R 101706Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3839

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4670

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, UNRWA, XF

SUBJECT: UNRWA FINANCING

REF: AMMAN 2315

1. AT LEAST SO FAR AS EMBASSY AND UNRWA CAN DETERMINE AT THIS TIME "GENERAL AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPAL TO INCREASE ARAB FUNDING FOR UNRWA" REPORTEDLY REACHED AT ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS LATE-MARCH CONF. IN CAIRO IS BEST KEPT SECRET OF PROCEEDINGS. EGYPTIAN EMBOFF INFORMED US APRIL 9 THAT EGYPTIAN AMB TO LEBANON WAS IN CAIRO DURING FONMINS CONFERENCE AND, ALTHOUGH NOT RPT NOT MEMBER OF EGYPTIAN DEL AND NOT RPT NOT PRESENT DURING FORMAL SESSIONS, AMB DID FREQUENT CORRIDORS AND FAILED HEAR EVEN WHISPER RE ADDITIONAL ARAB FUNDING FOR UNRWA. THIS REPORT, TAKEN WITH THAT CONTAINED IN BEIRUT 3871 (NOTAL), CONTRASTS WITH PM RIFAI'S CONFIDENCE RE PAST AND FUTURE PROGRESS TOWARD ARAB ACTION.

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2. COMGEN RENNIE IS DUE TO RETURN TO BEIRUT TODAY (APR 10) FROM EUROPE AND EMBOFF EXPECTS TO SEE HIM APRIL 11. OUR

ASSESSMENT, BASED ON SOUNDING TO DATE, IS THAT COMGEN WILL BE EXTERMELY RELUCANT TO POSTPONE ACTICIPATED RATIONS CUTS BEYOND MAYYY 1 UNLESS HE HAS IN HAND ASAP SOME MORE CONCRETE PROSPECT OF ADDITIONAL, SUBSTANTIAL AND TIMELY CONTRIBUTIONS THAN AGENCY HAS AT THIS TIME. WITH TIME PASSING RAPIDLY, IT SEEMS TO US MOST EFFECTIVE PROCEDURE FOR PM RIFAI WOULD BE TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH UNRWA HQS (COMGEN) TO LAY BEFORE AGENCY DECISION-MAKER HIS EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS TOWARD GREATER ARAB ASSUMPTION OF FINANCIAL PARTICIPATIONS IN UNRWA FUNDING. APPEALING TO INTERMEDIARIES TO INTERVENE WITH COMGEN IS NOT ONLY INDIRECT APPROACH TO PROBLEM, BUT IN TIME-COSUMING AND, ULTIMATELY, HAS LIMITED CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

3. WE RECOGNIZE, AS DOES COMGEN, UNFORTUNATE IMPLICATIONS, FOR UNRWA, FOR REFUGEES, FOR HOST GOVTS, AND POSSIBLY FOR AREA STABILITY OF REDUCTIONS IN AGENCY'S SERVICES AT THIS TIME. IF PM RIFAI OR THOSE WITH FIRM EVIDENCE THAT ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF SUFFUCIENT SIZE WILL BE FORTHCOMING IN NEAR TERM CAN CONVINCE COMGEN THAT PROJECTED REDUCTIONS IN AGENCY SERVICES CAN PRUDENTLY BE POSTPONED OR CANCELLED, WE ARE SURE THAT NO ONE WILL BE MORE RELIEVED THAT COMGEN.
GODLEY

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NNN

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